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Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH" AT OXFORD.—The amateur musical performances, which took place on the 9th and 10th of March, in the Town Hall, cannot have failed to justify the most sanguine anticipations of all parties interested in the arrangements. The Oratorio judiciously selected was Handel's *Messiah*, which was particularly appropriate to the present season, and to the charitable purpose of the second night's performance, having been first produced by the composer in Ireland, for the furtherance of benevolent designs in that country. We heartily congratulate the Members of the University on the great success which has attended their efforts in the study and practice of the highest order of music, the present being the third of a series of Oratorios which they have performed in a similar manner. The total number of performers were 150, and all residents in Oxford.—*From a Correspondent.*

THE SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY at Exeter Hall had a very successful performance of Anthems and Services, with Organ and Voices, on the 10th of March, from the Works of Gibbons, Purcell, Blow, Wise, Boyce, &c., &c.; and no doubt that this school of music will become more general in Choral Societies, since the publication of the separate vocal parts and the vocal score, with accompaniment for the organ or pianoforte by V. Novello, will place them within the reach of many who could not read from the old scores.

THE HISTORICAL CONCERTS in aid of the Hullah Testimonial Fund—The next Concert is fixed for April 19.

OLDHAM BOROUGH CHORAL SOCIETY.—At their meeting on the 3rd of March, a vote of thanks was given to the Proprietor of the *Musical Times* for publishing the Madrigal, "Flora gave me," at the request of the members.

MR. PELZER, whose lectures on Class Singing have been so well received in various towns in Hampshire, in Exeter and Plymouth, &c., and also in Dublin and other parts of Ireland during the last few years, is returned to London, with the view of organizing Classes in the Metropolis.

BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL.—A correspondent has called our attention to the movement now making in Birmingham, to have performances of Anthems, Services, and other Classical Works, to alternate with the Monday evening performances.

MILITARY MUSIC.— * * * And then the loud melody of martial music comes ringing through the air, a spirit-moving strain! A march, a triumphal march, in all its cadences, all its burst of rich harmony; talking of glory, of pomp—and lying while it talks! Why not interpret martial music aright? It might be done. An ear morally tuned might hear, amid the breath of its melody, mournful wailing, shrieks, such as surgeons shrink from, when the scalpel is deep in the flesh—the lamentations of despairing men and women muttered lowly—a roaring as of burning houses—and anon, when the strain ceases, a silence, like the silence of deserted hearths. So do we interpret martial music. It is said we must have red coats, and muskets, and sabres; but seeing that the duty of their bearers squares neither with our innate good sense, nor our notions of what ought to be,—we are fain to gild the matter over—to try to conceal from ourselves the butchering nature of the business we are forced sometimes to undertake; and so spring up Military spectacle—Military finery—Military music!—The "*Finery of War*," from *Shilling Mag.*

MR. JACKSON'S ORATORIO, "The deliverance of Israel," will be performed at Leeds, on the Evening of Whit-Tuesday, the profits to be given to the Leeds Dispensary. The Leeds New Choral Society, several members of the York and Huddersfield Choral Societies, besides many other professional and amateur musicians, have offered their services in the performance of the Oratorio.

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PART II.—13, Blowing Bubbles—14, Super Flumina Babylonis—15, Prayer—16, Shepherd Boy—17, The Sea—18, Contentment—19, Fraternity—20, Night Song—21, Consolation—22, Hymn—23, The World we have not seen—24, Psalm XV.

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